

Section 11: Conclusion

In her first State of the Union address, Governor Jennifer Granholm paraphrased the words of Pete Silas, former Chairman and CEO of Phillips Petroleum Company, who said “We cannot wait for the storm to blow over; we must learn to work in the rain.” She was talking about the Michigan economy.

That storm has still not blown over, although the people of Michigan have been working in the rain for several years, and gallantly. To continue the analogy, the weather nationally has taken on a sharp and sudden chill. It seems inevitable that the rain will turn to snow. Perhaps severe snow.

But one thing the people of Michigan excel at is digging out from under a big snow. Everyone – the neighborhood, the community, the entire state – bundles up and pitches in. They bring whatever tools they have at their disposal. They all contribute by making their best, most responsible effort. Only by working together can they clear the way for everyone.

This report proposes making significant investment in transportation. It is an investment that will create jobs and economic opportunity, attract business, improve property values, increase revenue, help the environment, and ultimately save taxpayer dollars. It is an investment worth making, particularly in light of the storm that is upon us.

This investment will require a contribution from everyone who uses transportation. It will require all the tools we have available, and some new ones that have yet to be crafted.

If everyone contributes, if we work together to give our best, be our most responsible, we can make it happen. This significant investment in transportation can help Michigan dig out from under the snow. We can set an example for the rest of the nation, show them how it's done, and reclaim our place as a national economic leader once again.